

NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR SELECTED



Seattle INS District Director Robert S. Coleman announced the selection of Robert Okin (left) as the new Deputy District Director for the Seattle District.

Since 1995, Mr. Okin served as the Special Assistant to the Associate Commissioner Field Services, Office of Field Operations in Washington, D.C. In this capacity, he assisted in the overall management of the Examinations Program. This consisted of interpreting, developing, implementing and evaluating new laws, regulations and major initiatives in Inspections, Adjudications, Service Center Operations, Records and Administrative Appeals. Most recently, Mr.

Okin has focused on Naturalization, Temporary Protected Status, Fingerprints and Quality Assurance.

Prior to assuming his current duties, Okin served as Acting Director of Training, Acting Associate Commissioner for Human resources and Career Development and other various positions of increasing responsibility with the INS and the Department of the Army.

"Mr. Okin's high level of expertise in a broad range of areas will be a great asset to this district and we are anxious to get him on board" said Robert S. Coleman, Seattle INS District Director.

It's expected that Mr. Okin will report for duty in February 2001.

INS



NEWS

NEW LEGISLATION

Legal Immigration and Family Equity Act

President Clinton signed a major immigration legislative package called the Legal Immigration and Family Equity Act (LIFE) into law. This is alternative legislation to the Latino Immigration Fairness Act (LIFA) that was previously proposed.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is developing guidance for implementation of this new law, which will include instructions on how to apply under the new provisions. Instructions on application procedures will be made public and distributed as soon as the information is available.

Among the changes in the law are the following:

- **Section 245(i)** of the Immigration and Nationality Act will be available temporarily to people physically present in the United States on the date of enactment, December 21, 2000. The provision will allow a person who qualifies for permanent residency, but is ineligible to adjust status in the United States because of an immigration status violation, to pay a \$1,000 penalty to

continue processing in the United States. In order to be eligible for 245(i) adjustment under the LIFE

Act, a person must be the beneficiary of an immigrant petition or application for labor certification filed on or before April 30, 2001.

It is important to note that the 245 (i) adjustment under the **LIFE Act is not amnesty for all persons unlawfully in the United States.**

- **A new temporary "V"** non-immigrant status will be available to the spouses and minor children of lawful permanent residents waiting more than three years for an immigrant visa based upon an immigrant petition filed on or before the enactment date of the LIFE Act. Persons granted "V" status would receive employment authorization and are protected from removal.

- **A new temporary "K" visa** status will be available to spouses of U.S. citizens (and their children) living abroad. The current K visa is only available to fiancées of U.S. citizens who are coming to the United States to get married within 90 days of arrival.

- **Other Adjustments** - Persons who filed before October 1, 2000, for class membership in one of three "late amnesty" lawsuits (CSS v. Meese, LULAC v. INS, and Zambrano v. INS) and who are eligible under the LIFE Act's amended legalization provisions may apply to adjust status during a 12-

month period that begins once regulations are issued. Spouses and unmarried children of the class action claimants will be protected from certain categories of removal and will be eligible for work authorization if they entered the United States before December 1, 1988 and resided in the United States on that date.



For General INS Information call 1-800-375-5283. The menu is **brief and informs a caller to choose the option of** speaking to a live person by pressing number 9.

Questions on the status of a case should be directed to:

Seattle Inquiries Unit
815 Airport Way South
Seattle 98134
via Fax to (206) 553-5014

And don't forget, you can also get questions answered on the Internet at seains@aol.com.

Due to personnel shortages, the INS office in Bellingham has been closed permanently. The office in Bellevue is also slated for closure possibly by the end of February, if not sooner.

The satellite office in Tacoma will remain open. They are located at:
World Trade Center Bldg.
3600 Port Tacoma Rd. #108
Tacoma, WA 98424
Hours: Mon., Wed. & Thurs
8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Closed Tuesday and Friday

UPDATES

Listed below are some of the most recent news releases or fact sheets available. For complete information please visit the INS web site at www.ins.usdoj.gov

- Vehicle Seizure Law – changes in the way the INS handles seizures of vehicles at U.S. borders in the West.
- INS to Adopt New Detention Standards – new standards to ensure consistent treatment and care for INS detainees.
- Prosecutorial Discretion - Factors determining use of prosecutorial discretion.
- Child Citizenship Act of 2000 - Discusses citizenship for adopted children.
- INS Issues Two New Asylum Rules – One final rule covers claims involving past persecution. The other is a proposed rule on gender based claims.
 - Proposed Settlement of

Walters v. Reno – Class action lawsuit relating to non-citizens who waived or failed to request hearings to contest charges of document fraud in violation of 274C of the Immigration & Nationality Act.

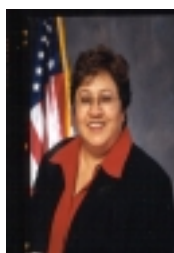
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INS NEWS is produced by the Public Affairs and Congressional Unit of the INS Seattle District. Comments, suggestions and your questions are welcome and should be directed to Irene Mortensen at Fax (206) 553-0936 or email to Irene.Mortensen@usdoj.gov